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THE STATUS OF RESETTLED PERSONS IN SOVIET ZONE GERMANY

Distribution of Resettlers by Zones of Occupation

* Not including evacuees and foreign DPs.

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Distribution of Resettlers in the Soviet Zone by Laender

<u>Land</u>	<u>Total Popu- lation (in 1,000)</u>	<u>Resettlers (in 1,000)</u>	<u>Ratio of Resettlers to Total Population (in %)</u>
Brandenburg	2,647	655	24.8
Mecklenburg	2,127	922	43.3
Sachsen	4,303	1,051	24.4
Sachsen-Anhalt	5,799	998	17.2
Thuringen	2,988	686	23.0
Total	17,864	4,312	24.2

The main feature of the resettlement policy of the Soviet Zone is the fact that almost all resettlers who are able to work have been integrated into the economy. The 120,000 resettled persons who are not working include 40,000 who are able to work only to a limited extent and 64,000 women. Of the youths who have finished their elementary schooling, and are therefore eligible for employment, 36,000 have chosen to continue their studies.

Despite every effort by employment offices, not all employable resettlers have been given jobs in line with their qualifications or choice. The reason for this is that most of these persons have been living in rural areas. However, between October 1947 and October 1948, 85,000 employable resettlers moved from the country to cities, most of them with their families.

The land reform has caused great changes in the rural areas; 2.2 million hectares of ground were redistributed for individual use, and of this amount 762,000 hectares, or 34.9 percent, were assigned to resettlers. In addition to the lands given to small landowners and small tenant farmers and the forest allocations to old established peasants, 210,000 completely new farms were founded. Resettlers occupy 90,600, or 43 percent, of the new farms (population, including families, 348,000). Also, 20,000 new farmhouses were allocated to new farmers from the land fund; nearly 40,000 new farmhouses were built up to May 1949, and 26,000 more are now under construction. The construction of utility farm buildings is also making great progress. Each resettled farmer was granted a credit of over 5,000 marks. Credits granted before the currency reform have been devalued at a ration of 1:5.

Credits amounting to 4.2 million marks were granted to resettlers for the purpose of reestablishing them in business. In addition many resettlers received credit from banks.

Successful attempts have been made to combine specialist groups among the resettlers into cooperatives. So far, 58 cooperatives have been founded. The most important ones are those founded by the former Gablonz costume jewelers at Gotha and Quedlinburg, and the Nixdorf cutlery industry cooperative.

The resettlers who find employment are quickly assimilated. In Thuringen, about 40 percent of them are no longer known as "resettlers," nor do their living standards differ much from those of the indigenous population. It is intended that the term "resettler" shall disappear altogether. For this, it is essential that they find jobs according to their qualifications and proper living quarters and furnishings for their homes. Most of the resettled persons are still using wholly or partially borrowed furniture and inadequate home equipment. This problem has been investigated and the production plans call for the manufacture of the required items, which will be in the form of cheap, but sturdy, standardized furniture, to be made available on the installment plan.

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Since the ration points for the purchase of textile goods were found to be insufficient, 5 million additional points were released to resettlers, to be distributed according to need. Another 9 million points are being allocated to self-employed persons, preferably to resettled farmers. Resettlers who arrived later than 1 January 1949 will be given a textile-purchasing certificate in the value of 100 Deutsche Marks.

Resettlers are given financial aid in the form of a single subsidy payment. Allowance is made in this connection for differences in conditions, i.e., between resettlers with financial means or sufficient income and those who are unemployable or destitute. The total subsidies paid out to nearly 2 million resettlers amount to more than 400 million marks. These subsidies were designed to enable the resettlers to make the necessary purchases to establish themselves in their new locations. This aim has been accomplished.

The resettlers are now active participants, both as producers and as consumers. They have not become homeless and uprooted foreigners; the assimilation process has made great strides because the people have no illusions that they might eventually be able to return to their old homes.

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